

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-21 are amended. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 will remain pending in the patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-21 are amended to positively recite that the control points identified in the claims are service control points. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-21 obviate the rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Becher (U.S. Pat. No. 6,545,987). Claims 2-9, 11-17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Becher in view of Chambers *et al.* (WO 97/07637) (hereinafter "Chambers") and/or Moharram (WO 98/19468). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections because Becher is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Chambers and/or Moharram, taken individually or in combination, fail to provide all the features recited by the rejected claims.

Applicant notes that the priority date of the present application is July 9, 1999. A copy of a certified English translation of the Finnish priority document is enclosed herewith. By contrast, the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) prior art date of Becher is October 2, 2000, *i.e.*, the U.S. filing date of Becher. It is respectfully submitted that no benefit of the international filing date of Becher is given for 35 U.S.C. §102(e) prior art purposes since the international application of Becher was filed prior to November 29, 2000. Therefore, the perfected priority date of the present application, *i.e.*, July 9, 1999, antedates the filing date of Becher. It is also respectfully submitted that Becher does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and (b). Additionally, Chambers and/or Moharram do not provide all the rejected claims' features. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The rejections having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

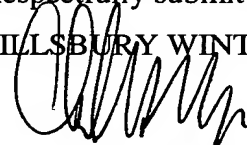
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If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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